

MINUTES
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD

June 25, 2009

*Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204*

The meeting of the Professional Standards Advisory Board convened at 10:10 a.m. Board members present included Tony Bennett, Carrie Cate-Clements, Bret Daghe, Jeff Fronius, David Goodwin, David Holt, Shernika Johnson, Joyce Johnstone, Michael Jones, Susan Julian, Bob McEwen, Natasha Salyers, George Van Horn, Sarah Wilson, and Jason Woebkenberg. Jane Riehl participated by telephone. Sharon Koehler and William Zoeller were unable to attend.

Staff members present included Becky Bridges, Jennifer Gantner, Ray Graves, Rich Hogue, Pat Mapes, Marg Mast, Risa Regnier, and Katie Russo.

1. Welcome

Mr. Mapes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Mr. Mapes expressed gratitude to the new Board members for attending and asked they introduce themselves along with the executive staff.

3. Dr. Tony Bennett, State Superintendent

Dr. Bennett also expressed gratitude for the new Board members attending and agreeing to serve. Their task is in the national spotlight to set the standard on how we address and certify school leaders as well as teachers.

Dr. Bennett stated since January 12, 2009, the Department of Education has chosen to move forward aggressively and make bold changes.

There are expectations from our national leaders regarding common assessments and standards, how we deal with school accountability and poor performing schools, and there is a clear message from Washington D.C. regarding professional quality of our teachers and how to prepare school leadership. We intend to lead the nation on these matters.

Dr. Bennett stated his office has received several phone calls complimenting the Educator and Licensing office on how quickly, efficiently, and professionally the processing and assistance

of obtaining their license. He expressed gratitude to Rich Hogue, Pat Mapes and his staff for this accomplishment.

Mr. Mapes stated the Educator Licensing and Development office produced over 2,000 teacher licenses and received over 1,200 phone calls for the week of June 8 through June 12. Last year's goal for turnaround of licenses was 5 -6 weeks, his goal is two weeks and some teachers have received their license as early as five days. We are making customer service a priority.

4. Sandi Jacobs, National Council on Teacher Quality

Mr. Mapes introduced Sandi Jacobs from National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) who gave a presentation regarding a national perspective and how Indiana policies may impact teacher quality and how they compare to policies of other states.

Ms. Jacobs stated a report showing the world's top school systems have two strong prerequisites for obtaining teacher licensure. In Finland you have to be in the top 10% of your high school class to enter a teacher preparation program. South Korea has very similar standards. After completing the teacher preparation program, they have to take rigorous licensure exams. In the United States access to teacher programs are open compared to other countries.

One way state policy can have important impact is with basic skills testing. Most states require basic skills testing for licensure, but a handful of states (17) require passing of basic skills testing as condition for admission to the preparation program.

Nationally, content preparation stopped being a focus for the elementary teacher preparation. Elementary teacher's standards are insufficient in liberal arts, math, science, fine arts, and social studies.

Ms. Jacobs also noted that elementary teachers in Indiana are not prepared to teach the science of reading. The Praxis II Reading Specialist test required in Indiana does not address the science of reading aspect.

Ms. Jacobs noted that a positive measure of the No Child Left Behind law was to make sure secondary teachers have content in the area they are teaching. Middle school teachers with a K-8 Generalist license are teaching eighth grade science or math with the same preparation as a kindergarten or first grade teacher. Indiana does not have pedagogy testing.

Special Education teachers need preparation in content. Secondary special education teachers teach multiple subjects. State can require preparation programs so teachers become "Highly Qualified" in two subjects.

State data systems are being used assessing teacher effectiveness. Indiana has a good foundation to do this. There are certain limitations to what value-added data can do, but can identify highest and lowest performing teachers.

Tenure decisions are generally automatic if a teacher has a satisfactory evaluation in most states. It is recommended that new teachers be evaluated more than once a year to make sure they are not struggling.

Ms. Jacobs addressed questions from the Board members.

Dr. Bennett added that the department is engaged in a value-added growth model based on Colorado's model using as a template. We also have legislation in the budget regarding teacher quality measures.

Dr. Bennett stated a clear message from Washington D.C. was that prohibitions linking teacher evaluations to student achievement will be a greater negative on states as they apply for "Race to the Top."

5. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Rule

Dr. Bennett stated we will begin drafting rules to address issues discussed today.

Mr. Mapes stated we need a formal vote for Notice of Intent that we will be eliminating certain requirements and adding new requirements that will be necessary for valid teacher/administrative licensure in our state.

Mr. McEwen called for a motion for the Notice of Intent to adopt new rules. Mr. Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mapes reminded the Board of the next meeting to be held on July 29, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Riley Conference Room.

Mr. Jones moved for adjournment. Mr. McEwen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

List of Attendees

Name

Organization

Marilyn Watkins

Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Matt Kirby

Indiana Department of Education

Cam Savage

Indiana Department of Education

Matt Tusing

Indiana Department of Education

T. J. Oakes

Purdue University – West Lafayette

Kathy Moran

University of Indianapolis